

IN THE CLAIMS

The status of each claim in the present application is listed below.

1. (Currently Amended) A polychloroprene latex composition obtained by emulsion polymerization of chloroprene alone or chloroprene and a monomer copolymerizable with chloroprene, in the presence of a polyvinyl alcohol and a polyoxyethylene alkyl ether nonionic emulsifier,

wherein the mass ratio of the polyvinyl alcohol to the polyoxyethylene alkyl ether is 50/50 to 1/99.

Claims 2 and 3: (Canceled).

4. (Currently Amended) The polychloroprene latex composition according to any one of Claims 1 to 3, wherein the polyoxyethylene alkyl ether nonionic emulsifier has a HLB value of from 14 to 19.

5. (Currently Amended) The polychloroprene latex composition according to any one of Claims 1 to 3, wherein the monomer copolymerizable with chloroprene, is an ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid.

6. (Currently Amended) The polychloroprene latex composition according to any one of Claims 1 to 3, wherein the polyvinyl alcohol is one having a saponification degree of from 60 to 98 mol%.

7. (Currently Amended) The polychloroprene latex composition according to any one of Claims 1-to-3, wherein the total amount of the polyvinyl alcohol and the polyoxyethylene alkyl ether nonionic emulsifier is from 1 to 10 parts by mass, per 100 parts by mass of chloroprene alone, or the total amount of chloroprene and the monomer copolymerizable with chloroprene, ~~and the ratio (mass ratio) of the polyvinyl alcohol/the nonionic emulsifier is within a range of from 0.5/99.5 to 99.5/0.5.~~

8. (Currently Amended) The polychloroprene latex composition according to any one of Claims 1-to-3, which has a solid content concentration of from 45 to 75 mass%.

9. (Original) The polychloroprene latex composition according to Claim 8, which has a pH of from 6 to 9, and a viscosity of from 5 to 5,000 mPa·s.

10. (Withdrawn; Currently Amended) An adhesive employing the polychloroprene latex composition as defined in any one of Claims 1-to-3.

11. (Withdrawn; Original) The adhesive according to Claim 10, wherein the gel content (toluene-insoluble matter) of a (co)polymer contained in the polychloroprene latex composition is from 3 to 30 mass%.

12. (Withdrawn; Currently Amended) A coating agent employing the polychloroprene latex composition as defined in any one of Claims 1-to-3.

13. (Currently Amended) A method for producing the [[a]] polychloroprene latex composition according to Claim 10, which comprises emulsion polymerization of

chloroprene alone, or chloroprene and a monomer copolymerizable with chloroprene, in the presence of a polyvinyl alcohol and the polyoxyethylene alkyl ether a nonionic emulsifier.

14. (Withdrawn; Previously Presented) An adhesive employing the polychloroprene latex composition as defined in Claim 1, wherein the chloroprene is polymerized alone.

15. (Withdrawn; Previously Presented) An adhesive employing the polychloroprene latex composition as defined in Claim 1, wherein the chloroprene is polymerized with the monomer copolymerizable with chloroprene.

Claims 16 and 17: (Canceled).

18. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a polychloroprene latex composition as defined in Claim 13, wherein the polyoxyethylene alkyl ether nonionic emulsifier has a HLB value of from 14 to 19.

19. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a polychloroprene latex composition as defined in Claim 13, wherein the monomer copolymerizable with chloroprene is an ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid.

20. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a polychloroprene latex composition as defined in Claim 13, wherein the polyvinyl alcohol has a saponification degree of from 60 to 98 mol%.

21. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a polychloroprene latex composition as defined in Claim 13, wherein the total amount of the polyvinyl alcohol and the polyoxyethylene alkyl ether nonionic emulsifier is from 1 to 10 parts by mass, per 100 parts by mass of chloroprene alone, or the total amount of chloroprene and the monomer copolymerizable with chloroprene, and the ratio (mass ratio) of the polyvinyl alcohol/the nonionic emulsifier is within a range of from 0.5/99.5 to 99.5/0.5.

22. (Withdrawn; Previously Presented) A method for producing a polychloroprene latex composition as defined in Claim 13, wherein the chloroprene is polymerized alone.

23. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a polychloroprene latex composition as defined in Claim 13, wherein the chloroprene is polymerized with the monomer copolymerizable with chloroprene.